

In the Specification

Please cancel the paragraph beginning on page 5, lines 18-25, and substitute in its place the text set forth below, adding explanatory language regarding a connection having an adjustable angle and referring to FIGS. 1-2. Any deletion is shown in strikethrough and any addition is shown underlined. There is no new matter added by this amendment.

The plurality of base member connectors comprises connectors **2-7** extending outwardly from the periphery of the base member and approximately perpendicular to an imaginary diameter of the base member. The base member connector **2-7** most preferably comprises a hinged connector extending outwardly from the generally arcuate periphery of the at least one base member so that an angle of connection of the base member connector **2-7** to the base member may be adjusted, allowing the apparatus to be worn by a patient during his routine daily activities. The skilled will appreciate the adjustability of the angle of the base member connector 2-7 by noting the engagement relationship between knob 2 and base member 1, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2.

Please cancel the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 26, through page 6, line 7; substitute in its place the text set forth below, showing correction of a typographical error in the word "therein." A deletion is shown in strikethrough and an addition is shown underlined. There is no new matter added by this amendment.

As shown in FIG. 4, the base member connector **2-7** is adjustable in length in small increments by turning the piston **4** upon threaded connector

3. As can be seen, the base member connector comprises a knob 2 having a threaded connector 3 engaged with a complementary threaded piston 4, the piston being also slidably disposed within a cylinder 5 at a first cylinder end and held ~~therin~~ therein by piston cap 6. The cylinder 5 has therein a biasing member 7 which urges against the piston 4, and has at a second cylinder end threads complementary to at least one individual extension member 8 of the plurality of extension members. As shown in FIG. 4, the base member connector 2-7 aids in maintaining a degree of tension in the traction apparatus A by the action of the biasing member 7 against the piston 4 in the cylinder 5.

Please cancel the paragraph appearing on page 7, lines 4-15, and substitute the paragraph set forth below. The replacement paragraph is intended to clarify the language noted by the Examiner, which in the original appears to refer to element 15a by two different names. A deletion is shown in strikethrough and an addition is shown underlined. There is no new matter added by this amendment.

The retaining collar 15 preferably comprises a relatively soft and resilient retaining member, as illustrated in FIGS. 1, 2 and 5. The retaining collar 15 comprises an outer, relatively soft retaining member 15a and an inner elastic member 14, a detailed view of this arrangement being shown in FIG. 5. ~~The~~ As shown in FIG. 5, the retaining collar 15 preferably in a preferred embodiment includes the relatively soft retaining member being a tubular outer member 15a and having an elastic inner

member **14** extending therethrough, the elastic inner member having first end and a second ends, both of which protrude from the tubular outer member. The retaining collar **15** shown in FIG. 5 may be secured to the support member **13** by adjustably connecting the protruding first and second ends to the at least one support member, by engaging the ends in the receiver **R**, which as shown in FIG. 2 includes two slots cut on an underside of the support member **13**.